



The Capitol Connection

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS • OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

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Legislative Calendar

July 20

Summer Recess begins upon adjournment, provided Budget Bill has been passed.

August 20

Legislature reconvenes from Summer Recess.

BUDGET COMMITTEE TAKES ACTION

On Friday June 1, 2007, the budget conference committee began meeting to resolve the differences between the Assembly and Senate actions on various budget issues. Several judicial branch issues were part of this process.

The committee has not completed its work, but on June 20, 2007, acted on all judicial branch issues except for the proposal to change the Judges Retirement System II. Once the conference committee completes its work, any unresolved issues may be sent to the Governor and leaders of both houses and both parties (“Big Five”). The budget will be then be voted on in each house. The end of the fiscal year is June 30. The following is a summary of the actions taken by the Budget Conference Committee:

- Approved the funding for 100 new trial court judgeships over two years. The

Legislature needs to pass AB 159 (Jones) to create the new positions.

- Approved \$2.5 million to expand self-help programs and approved budget bill language to earmark \$5.2 million per year of existing interpreter funding to be made available to courts for increased compensation for court interpreters and for interpreter training and recruitment.
- Denied increased funding for trial court security.
- Approved State Appropriations Limit funding of \$126,621 and Supplemental Reporting Language that specifies allocation of this funding.
- Denied a program workload adjustment for new positions at the AOC.

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COUNTIES TRANSFER COURT FACILITIES TO STATE

As of June 11, 2007, 73 court facilities transferred to the state. With the June 30, 2007, deadline fast approaching, many courts and counties are working around the clock with the staff of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to get as many transfers completed as possible.

Around this time last year about nine transfers had occurred. Thanks to legislation passed in 2006 (SB 10 (Dunn), Stats. 2006, ch. 444), the gridlock on transfer negotiations was lifted. SB 10 addressed the transfer of courthouses with seismic safety ratings of Level V or higher. A few Level V buildings have now transferred to the state and the legislation has allowed negotiations to resume where the issue had previously been a barrier to discussing all court facilities.

There has been a steep learning curve on transfers. However, once the process was fully developed and tested a time

or two in each county, the number of transfers began moving at a much quicker pace. Many large counties are now negotiating county-wide transfers rather than a building-by-building approach. There is no “one size fits all” solution to the complex task of transferring courthouses, but the creative approaches underway bode well for several more transfers being completed by the June 30 deadline.

There has been great progress in recent months with 36 transfers completed in the last three months. However, with over 450 court facilities to transfer, there remains much work to do. The Judicial Council is sponsoring SB 145 (Corbett), a bill that would extend the deadline to transfer court facilities from June 30, 2007, to December 31, 2008. At the current pace of transfers, AOC staff are optimistic that an additional 18 months will be sufficient to complete all the transfers. ■

JUDICIAL COUNCIL-SPONSORED LEGISLATION

JUDICIAL OFFICERS

Assembly Bill 159

The Judicial Council is sponsoring legislation to authorize the second phase of new superior court judgeships. Last year's Senate Bill 56 secured the first 50 judgeships. This year's **Assembly Bill 159** by Assembly Member Dave Jones seeks a currently unspecified number of new judgeships for 2007-08, to be allocated pursuant to the analysis of judgeship needs approved by the Judicial Council. AB 159 also authorizes the conversion of 162 subordinate judicial officers, upon vacancy, at a rate of up to 16 per year. The Budget Conference Committee approved funding for as many as 50 new judgeships in 2007-08, but will defer to AB 159 to set the actual number of judgeships that will be authorized. The Legislature remains interested in seeing progress on the first 50 appointments, and the diversity of those appointments, before taking final action on AB 159. The bill now moves to the Senate, where it will be considered next by the Senate Judiciary Committee. *For more information, contact Donna Hershkowitz at donna.hershkowitz@jud.ca.gov or (916) 323-3121.*

COURT FACILITIES

Senate Bill 145

The Judicial Council is sponsoring legislation to extend the June 30, 2007, deadline for the transfer of court facilities from the counties to the state. **Senate Bill 145** has been introduced by Senator Ellen M. Corbett to extend the deadline to December 31, 2008, and as a placeholder for potential process im-

provements to facilitate the transfer of additional courthouses. *For more information contact Eraina Ortega at eraina.ortega@jud.ca.gov or (916) 323-3121.*

COURT FUNDING/OPERATIONS

Assembly Bill 227

Two legislative measures of 2005 resulted in potential fine and forfeiture Maintenance of Effort (MOE) buyouts by the state from individual counties. AB 139 (Stats. 2005, ch. 74) provided, where applicable, for buyouts of certain revenues often referred to as "undesignated fees," while AB 145 (Stats. 2005, ch. 75) provided for buyouts of the county portion of certain fees designated by the Trial Court Funding Act (Stats. 1997, ch. 850 (AB 233)). The "buyouts" have been effectuated in the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 fiscal years by notice and agreement between courts and counties.

The Judicial Council and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) are co-sponsoring **Assembly Bill 227** to add a new section to the Government Code that codifies the adjusted county fine and forfeiture MOE amounts that have been paid as a result of the buyouts agreed to pursuant to previous legislation. This change will prevent any future disagreement or misunderstanding about the amounts owed and is the final step in the disposition of fees and fines that have long been disputed between courts and counties.

Assembly Bill 367

Beginning with legislation to establish the Collaborative Court-County Working Group on Enhanced Collections (SB 940, Escutia) and con-

tinuing with legislation to enact recommendations from that working group (SB 246, Escutia), the Judicial Council has been leading an effort to improve the enforcement of court orders to increase respect for the rule of law.

The Judicial Council is the sponsor of **Assembly Bill 367**, a bill that contains the final recommendations of the working group and builds on the previous efforts by making minor changes to the Franchise Tax Board's collection program and establishes a new task force to review and recommend changes that will improve the assessment and enforcement of criminal fines and penalties. In addition, at the request of Assembly Member Dave Jones, AB 367 has been amended to require the Judicial Council to develop performance measures and benchmarks to review the effectiveness of collection programs.

Assembly Bill 1248

The Uniform Civil Fees (UCF) and Standard Fee Schedule Act of 2005 took effect on January 1, 2006. The new fee structure streamlined and simplified the civil fees collected by the courts by rolling the previously varied surcharges and add-on fees into one filing fee. As the courts have implemented the UCF, several technical errors have been identified as well as other issues that need clarification in the Act. **Assembly Bill 1248** makes technical and clarifying amendments to the UCF and clarifies when certain fees that were not part of the UCF should be charged.

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LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

The following is an update of the first year of the 2007-2008 legislative session on selected bills of interest to the courts as of Wednesday, June 20, 2007.

CIVIL & SMALL CLAIMS

AB 1126 (Eng), as amended on March 27, 2007. Civil discovery: unlawful detainer; subpoenas.

Provides, among other things, that in unlawful detainer actions and other specified summary proceedings involving the possession of real property, a discovery motion may be made at any time upon giving five days notice. Requires the Judicial Council to adopt rules prescribing the time for the filing and service of opposition and reply papers relating to specified motions filed in connection with the above summary proceedings. Allows a plaintiff in those summary proceedings to propound interrogatories, make a demand for inspection, and make requests for admission without leave of court at any time that is five days after service of the summons on, or appearance by, the relevant party, whichever occurs first. Makes related changes to the procedures governing discovery in those summary proceedings.

Status: Senate Judiciary Committee.

JC position: Support.

AB 1264 (Eng), as proposed to be amended. Courts: delay reduction: status conferences.

Prohibits delay reduction rules from requiring the severance of unnamed defendants prior to the conclusion of the introduction of evidence at trial, except upon stipulation or motion of the parties.

Status: Senate Judiciary Committee.

JC position: Neutral.

COURT FACILITIES

AB 276 (Solorio), as amended March 15, 2007. Trial courts: limited-term employees.

Provides that a limited-term employee is a regular trial court employee if the limited-term employee has completed 180 days of service, and if the assignment, position, or project of the limited-term employee is an integral part of the long-term, regular work of the trial court.

Status: Two-year bill.

JC position: No position.

AB 863 (Davis), as introduced. Los Angeles County Superior Court employees.

Requires the Los Angeles Superior Court to pay each employee in specified bargaining units two months "back pay" in the amount the employee would have received if the employee's reclassification raise that occurred on October 1, 2005, had been made retroactive to August 1, 2005.

Status: Senate Rules Committee.

JC position: No position.

AB 1340 (Jones), as introduced. Safe and Secure Court Facilities Bond Act of 2008.

Authorizes a ballot measure for the issuance of \$2 billion in bonds for the acquisition, design, construction, or renovation of court facilities.

Status: Two-year bill.

JC position: Support.

AB 1726 (Judiciary Committee), as introduced. Evidence: court interpreters.

Requires that an interpreter be present whenever needed in any civil matter, including family law and probate, or in any court-ordered or court-provided alternative dispute resolution, including mediation and arbitration. Requires that unless a party has notified the court that he or she has made arrangements for a private interpreter, the court shall provide the interpreter. Specifies a priority order for when an interpreter will be provided if there are insufficient interpreters or funding available. Limits funding provided for this purpose to \$10 million.

Status: Two-year bill.

JC position: Support in concept contingent on funding and workability.

SB 431 (Aanestad & Wiggins), as introduced. Public employees' retirement: Butte and Solano counties.

Requires the assets and liabilities of the Superior Courts of Butte and Solano Counties and the Counties of Butte and Solano to be separated based on a computation determined by an actuary retroactive to June 30, 2002. Following the separation of assets and liabilities, requires the courts to participate in a risk pool created by the California Public Employees' Retirement System.

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LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

(Continued from page 3)

Status: Assembly Public Employees, Retirement & Social Security Committee.

JC position: Oppose unless amended.

CRIMINAL LAW & PROCEDURE

AB 1582 (Calderon, C.), as introduced. Crimes: marijuana: possession: penalty.

Reclassifies from a misdemeanor to an infraction a first offense for possession of not more than 28.5 grams of marijuana, and would make it an alternate infraction/misdemeanor for a second or subsequent offense.

Status: Two-year bill.

JC position: Support.

AB 1660 (La Malfa), as amended June 6, 2007. Victims' rights: presence during criminal proceedings.

Provides that after a victim has testified in a criminal proceeding, the victim or his or her designee have a right to be present at any subsequent proceedings, except as specified.

Status: Senate Rules Committee.

JC position: Oppose.

SB 340 (Ackerman), as amended April 9, 2007. Access to Criminal History Information by Court.

Expands the list of agencies entitled to receive criminal history reports by adding an agency performing conservatorship investigations related to a proposed conservator under the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act, as well as probate court investigators.

Status: Assembly Public Safety Committee.

JC position: Support and co-sponsor.

COURT REPORTERS

AB 582 (Evans), as amended June 1, 2007. Court transcription fees.

Increases the fee for the original and copies of court reporter transcripts for three consecutive years, and then increases the fee annually by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers. Expands the 50 percent additional charge for daily copy service to criminal transcripts. Requires the Administrative Office of the Courts to publish an updated transcript fee scheduled based on the increases tied to the CPI. Specifies a uniform format for all court transcripts, and increases access to the

Transcript Reimbursement Fund (TRF) for indigent pro per litigants.

Status: Two-year bill.

JC position: Oppose unless funded outside SAL; support uniform format if amended; oppose unless amended to provide sufficient access to TRF to low-income litigants.

FEES, FINES, AND PENALTIES

SB 396 (Ridley-Thomas), as amended April 24, 2007. Dispute Resolution.

Requires the Judicial Council to establish the Commission of Civil Fees in the Courts, and removes the cap on distributions of fees to dispute resolution programs if the filing fee is increased for this purpose.

Status: Assembly Judiciary Committee.

JC position: Support and co-sponsor.

SB 539 (Margett), as amended April 9, 2007. Trial Court Trust Fund.

Amends Government Code section 68085(j), to require the entity found in error for the delinquent transfer of court fees to the Trial Court Trust Fund to make the payment directly to the state (currently the county is required to pay the state and seek reimbursement from the court, if the court is at fault).

Status: Assembly Judiciary Committee.

JC position: Neutral.

JURIES

AB 1557 (Feuer), as introduced. Jury selection: peremptory challenges.

Reduces peremptory challenges to 6 per side in all misdemeanor cases, rather than only those misdemeanors resulting in imprisonment for 90 days or less.

Status: Two-year bill.

JC position: Support.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

AB 1547 (Beall), as amended April 11, 2007. Juvenile court: termination of jurisdiction.

Requires the probation department to ensure that a delinquent ward who is nearing majority receive specified information, documents, and services intended to promote a transition to independent living. Authorizes

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LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

(Continued from page 4)

the court to impose sanctions on the department if it fails to comply with these provisions. Requires probation to deliver the services described above at least six months before a hearing to terminate jurisdiction which will be occurring when the ward is approaching 18 years of age.

Status: Two-year bill.

JC position: Support.

JUVENILE DEPENDENCY

AB 369 (Solario), as amended March 29, 2007. Child abuse reporting.

Allows Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs to obtain background information on potential volunteers and employees from the Child Abuse Central Index maintained by the Department of Justice.

Status: Senate Public Safety Committee.

JC position: Support.

PROBATE

AB 1727 (Committee on Judiciary), as introduced. Conservators and Guardians.

Contains a number of technical and conforming amendments to the Omnibus Conservatorship and Guardianship Reform Act of 2006. Revises the law governing the invalidation of donative transfers to care custodians by disallowing transfers only in cases where the instrument creating or modifying the donative transfer is dated after the date that the person receiving the transfer became the care custodian for that transferor.

Status: Senate Judiciary Committee.

JC position: No position on section of bill addressing donative transfers; support remainder of bill.

SB 800 (Corbett), as amended March 29, 2007. Conservators and guardians: care plans.

Requires a conservator or guardian to submit to the court within 90 days of appointment a plan for the care, custody, control, and, if applicable, the education of the ward or conservatee. As part of this plan, the bill would require an assessment of the strengths of the conservatee's or ward's family, an assessment of appropriate residential placement, and a schedule of visits between the ward or conservatee and the conservator or guardian, as well as visits between the ward or conservatee and his or her

family. Requires the Judicial Council to develop an implementing form.

Status: Assembly Judiciary Committee.

JC position: Support in concept.

TRAFFIC

AB 112 (Wolk), as amended March 28, 2007. Highways: Safety Enhancement Double Fine Zones.

Designates a segment of State Highway Route 12 in Solano and San Joaquin Counties as a Safety Enhancement-Double Fine Zone upon approval of specified county resolutions and until January 1, 2012. Contains an urgency clause and would take effect immediately upon enactment.

Status: Senate Transportation and Housing Committee.

JC position: Oppose.

AB 117 (Beall), as amended March 22, 2007. Traffic offenses: additional assessment: traffic safety.

Provides that, until January 1, 2010, Santa Clara County may choose to levy an additional assessment for a highway traffic violation in the amount of \$2 for every \$10 or fraction thereof, upon each base fine, excluding other penalty assessments, fees, or additions. Requires that the collected assessment be deposited in a Traffic Safety Committee Network fund, and that the monies be allocated so that, after deducting administrative costs, 85 percent shall be used in traffic safety programs approved by the county board of supervisors, and 15 percent shall be deposited in the county's courthouse construction fund.

Status: Senate Rules Committee.

JC position: Oppose.

AB 758 (Plescia), as amended June 1, 2007. Vehicles: traffic violator schools: regulation.

Requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to license home-study traffic schools, and to adopt rules and regulations to implement the licensing program.

Status: Senate Rules Committee.

JC position: Support.

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BUDGET REVISE

(Continued from page 1)

Funding was approved to begin the first phases of five new courthouses:

- Tulare County - New Porterville Courthouse: \$4.426 million for the Acquisition phase to construct a new nine-courtroom 90,000 square foot courthouse.
- Los Angeles County - New Long Beach Courthouse: \$5.889 million for Equity Buy Out to construct a new thirty-one-courtroom 304,480 square foot courthouse.
- San Benito County - New Hollister Courthouse: \$541,000 for the Acquisition phase to construct a new three-courtroom 36,500 square foot courthouse.
- Calaveras County - New San Andreas Courthouse: \$845,000 for the Acquisition phase of a four-courtroom 39,900 square foot courthouse.
- Lassen County - New Susanville Courthouse: \$1.478 million for the Acquisition phase of a three-courtroom 36,600 square foot courthouse.

Funding to begin the first phases of four new courthouses:

- New Madera Courthouse - Madera County: \$3.440 million for the acquisition phase to construct a new eleven-courtroom 110,000 square foot courthouse.
- New San Bernardino Courthouse - San Bernardino County: \$4.774 million for the acquisition phase to construct a new 36-courtroom 356,390 square foot courthouse.

- New Stockton Courthouse - San Joaquin County: \$3.327 million for the acquisition phase to construct a new 29-courtroom 256,720 square foot courthouse.
- New Riverside Mid-County Region Courthouse - Riverside County: \$3.283 million for the acquisition phase to construct a new six-courtroom 60,725 square foot courthouse.

Funding for three additional courthouses:

- New Antioch Area Courthouse - Contra Costa County: \$3.632 million for the Working Drawings phase to construct a new seven-courtroom 73,500 square foot courthouse.
- New Portola/Loyalton Courthouse - Plumas and Sierra Counties: \$346,000 for the Workings Drawings phase to construct a new 6,500 square foot courthouse.
- New Mammoth Lakes Courthouse - Mono County: \$725,000 for the Workings Drawings phase to construct a new 20,000 square foot courthouse.

Additionally the following actions were approved prior to conference committee meeting:

- Omnibus Conservatorship and Guardianship Reform Act of 2006 - a \$17.377 million General Fund augmentation to implement the provisions of Chapters 492 and 493, Statutes of 2006. Funding is proposed for a two year limited term basis to allow the Administrative Office of the Courts time to assess the impact of the legislation and develop a more fully developed proposal to address the on-going funding need. ■

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

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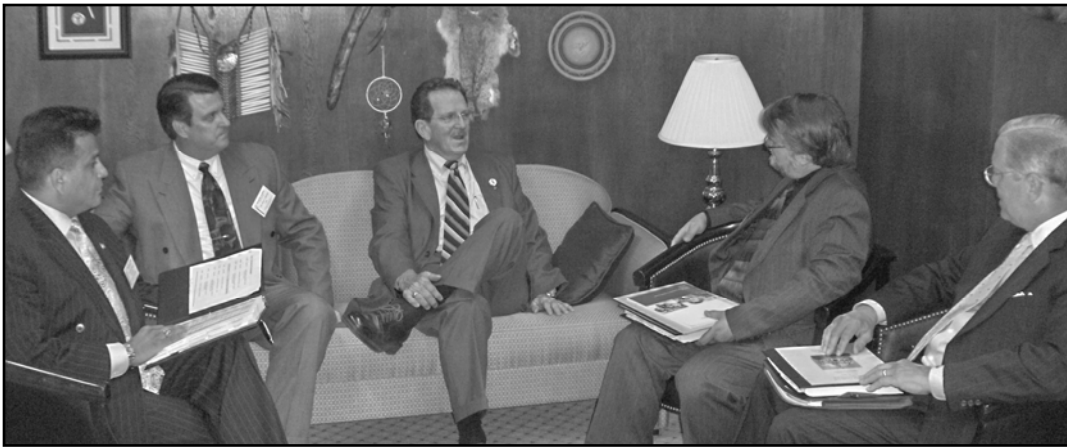
AB 1258 (Caballero), as introduced. Highways: Safety Enhancement Double Fine Zones.

Designates a segment of State Highway Route 101 and a segment of County Road 16 in Monterey County as Safety Enhancement-Double Fine Zones.

Status: Two-year bill.

JC position: Oppose. ■

	<p>2007 California Bench Bar Biannual Conference</p> <p>September 26-30, 2007</p> <p>Marriott & Hilton Hotels Anaheim, California</p> <p><i>This event is being held in conjunction with the annual meetings of the State Bar of California and California Judges Association</i></p>
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Assembly Member Bill Maze (center) discusses legislation of importance to the judicial branch with the following Bench-Bar Coalition members from the Central California team (left to right): David Torres, President-Elect, Kern County Bar Association; Hon. Brian McCabe, Judge, Merced County Superior Court; Chris Schneider, Executive Director, Central California Legal Services; and Hon. Robert Oliver, Judge, Fresno County Superior Court.

BBC DELIVERS MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE

Nearly 50 judges, court executive officers, bar association leaders, and legal services directors traveled to the State Capitol in May for the Bench-Bar Coalition’s second “Day in Sacramento” of 2007. The event was timed to coincide with the Governor’s release of the May Revision of the state budget and the activity in the budget committees.

This second round of legislative visits served a more laser-focused purpose than the February “Day in Sacramento,” which was held in conjunction with Chief Justice Ronald George’s State of the Judiciary Address to a joint session of the Legislature. The range of topics covered was narrowed to the most critical judicial branch issues requiring immediate attention based on where they were in the legislative process. Legislators targeted for the in-depth discussions were those who would be considering the judicial branch budget or considering through their committee assignments pending Judicial Council-sponsored legislation, and who would be instrumental in legislative action on these bills as they make their way to the Assembly and Senate floors for key votes.

“The focus of the ‘Day in Sacramento’ was on issues that are critical to the judicial branch, including 50 new judgeships in the courts with the most pressing workloads; funding for new facilities where they are critically needed; access to justice issues, including reform of the Interest on Lawyers’ Trust Accounts program; and modifying the judicial retirement system to assist in attracting and retaining the most qualified applicants for judicial positions,” said Judge Harold W. Hopp of the Superior Court of Riverside County.

“By focusing on a limited number of topics, our team was able to update legislators and staff who were generally familiar with the issues, to introduce new legislators and staff to the topics, and to focus on issues and problems affecting individual districts, which made our meetings as productive as possible,” he continued. Hopp’s team of Inland Empire bench and bar leaders met with legislators from Riverside and San Bernardino counties, where judicial vacancies and population growth have resulted in severe workload backlogs in San Bernardino County and closure of the civil calendar in Riverside in 2006.

To accomplish their more focused goal, the teams’ composition was carefully balanced to include representation based on geography; court,

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Senator Christine Kehoe (right) listens as judicial branch concerns are discussed by BBC members from the San Diego area: Amy Fitzpatrick (left), Executive Director, San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Inc.; Hon. Yvonne Campos (center), Judge, San Diego County Superior Court.



COUNCIL-SPONSORED LEGISLATION

(Continued from page 2)

In addition, AB 1248 makes a technical change to the court records statute, changes the frequency of a report that the Judicial Council submits to the Legislature, removes the cap on habeas investigation costs paid by the Supreme Court, allows staff of the Administrative Office of the Courts to staff a non-profit organization created by the Judicial Council, allows the courts to charge the current "night court assessment" for court sessions held on weekends, allows the courts to collect bail forfeitures in installment payments without requiring the individual to make an appearance in court, and requires the Judicial Council to establish a travel policy for the judicial branch. *For more information contact Eraina Ortega at eraina.ortega@jud.ca.gov or (916) 323-3121.*

CIVIL & SMALL CLAIMS

Assembly Bill 926

The Judicial Council is sponsoring legislation to amend three discovery statutes to clarify the time for production of documents. **Assembly Bill 926** by Assembly Member Noreen Evans also provides that parties may agree to extend the time for inspection. AB 926 is pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee. *For more information contact Dan Pone at daniel.pone@jud.ca.gov or (916) 323-3121.*

MISCELLANEOUS

Assembly Bill 467

The Judicial Council's sponsored bill to revise and redraft the court fee waiver statute was approved by the Assembly Judiciary Committee at its April 24th hearing. **Assembly Bill**

467, by Assembly Member Mike Feuer, as amended June 4, 2007, would provide indigent litigants with an opportunity to access the courts in a timely and appropriate manner, and to provide for recovery of those fees in cases in which there is a judgment in favor of the litigant who obtained the fee waiver, the litigant receives a substantial settlement; or other changed circumstances allow the fees to be paid. AB 467 sets forth clear procedures and timeframes for acting on fee waiver applications. It specifies that a clerk cannot deny a fee waiver application on his or her own authority but may be delegated the authority to grant one. In addition, at the trial court level, it affords all applicants an opportunity to be heard by a judicial officer if an application has been denied, and requires the court to set a hearing if there is an evidentiary conflict.

AB 467 would also enact new procedures for collecting fees in cases where an initial fee waiver has been granted and subsequent events indicate that recovery of the waived fees is appropriate. These procedures would (1) require the court to add any waived fees to a judgment if the judgment is in favor of a party who received an initial fee waiver; (2) place an automatic lien on any settlement or other recovery of \$10,000 or more if the party collecting the recovery received a fee waiver; and (3) require the court in family law matters to consider whether a party to a family law case who did not receive a fee waiver has the ability to pay the other party's fees, and/or to review at the time of judgment whether changed circumstances allow a party whose fees were initially waived to pay all or

part of the waived fees. It would also allow the court to reconsider a fee waiver based upon changed circumstances in any case at disposition, or every six months if the court has a specific reason to reconsider the waiver. AB 467 is pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee. *For more information, contact Tracy Kenny at tracy.kenny@jud.ca.gov or (916) 323-3121.*

TRAFFIC

Assembly Bill 1464

Under current law, courts are unable to dispose of a significant portion of traffic cases resulting from a vehicle owner's failure to appear in court in response to an unsigned owner-responsibility Notice to Appear citation. Certain violations of the Vehicle Code are the responsibility of a vehicle owner rather than (or in addition to) the vehicle's driver.

Typical examples occur at truck scales, where citations may be issued because the vehicle is not properly equipped or is out of compliance with size provisions. Courts are currently prohibited from imposing the sanction of either a hold on registration or an arrest warrant against the owner for failing to appear in response to an unsigned Notice to Appear citation until the district attorney has filed a complaint. If the district attorney fails to take action, the court is unable to enforce its orders and dispose of the case.

The Judicial Council is sponsoring **Assembly Bill 1464** (Benoit) to allow the court, after proper notice to the owner/violator, to report a failure to appear on an unsigned citation issued

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DAY IN SACRAMENTO

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bar, and legal services perspectives; familiarity with the key messages; and relationships with targeted legislators.

State Bar Board of Governors and BBC Executive Committee member James N. Penrod guided his team through a full slate of appointments with Bay Area legislators. "I was very impressed with the high level of knowledge of the issues that the legislative members and their staff had about the issues relating to the judicial branch of government. They obviously do their homework on the many issues they face every day," Penrod said.

"I was also fortunate in having a well balanced team of leaders from the courts, the State Bar, and legal services organizations. The team was

comprised of the presiding judge of the Superior Court of San Francisco, the executive officer of the Superior Court of Marin County, the president of the Contra Costa County Bar Association, and an attorney from Bay Area Legal Aid's San Jose office. They were able to offer real life and practical experience from their daily experiences which are much more valuable to the Legislature than theoretical discussions of the issues."

In a debriefing that followed the appointments, BBC members expressed confidence that the insights gained from the dialogue on local and statewide judicial branch issues would help the coalition develop strategies for ongoing communications with legislators and staff in their districts. Another significant outcome was recognition

of the need to ramp up efforts to invite legislators and key staff to "Day on the Bench" visits to court facilities in their districts.

The BBC's next quarterly conference call will be held on Monday, July 23, 2007, from 4:00–5:00 p.m. The next BBC membership meeting will be held at the 2007 California Bench Bar Biannual Conference on Friday, September 28, 2007, from 8:00–10:30 a.m. at the Anaheim Marriott. Watch for registration information in the next issue of *The Capitol Connection*.

For more information about the BBC or upcoming activities, please contact Dia Poole in the Office of Governmental Affairs at (916) 323-3121. ■

SAVE THE DATE

BENCH-BAR COALITION

QUARTERLY CONFERENCE CALL

Monday, July 23, 2007
4:00—5:00 pm

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday, September 28, 2007
8:00—10:30 am

being held in conjunction with the 2007 California Bench Bar Biannual Conference and annual meetings of the State Bar of California and California Judges Association

For more information, please contact the Office of Governmental Affairs at (916) 323-3121

SPONSORED LEGISLATION

(Continued from page 8)

for an owner-responsibility offense to the Department of Motor Vehicles for a hold to be placed on the registration of the vehicle involved in the offense.

To ensure due process rights are protected, this bill requires notice to the owner/violator, and allows 21 days for response if the owner/violator was not present when the citation is issued, rather than the usual 10 days, to avoid unnecessary default judgments.

The Judicial Council believes that it is inappropriate to allow court orders to remain unenforced, especially when no new information is provided by the district attorney's complaint, which includes the same information that is on the citation.

AB 1464 gives the court an alternative method to attempt to enforce the order to appear and dispose of the case in the absence of a formal complaint, by allowing it to take the narrow action of notifying DMV to place a registration hold on the vehicle involved in the offense.

This bill is currently in the Senate Public Safety Committee. *For more information, contact June Clark at june.clark@jud.ca.gov or (916) 323-3121.* ■



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Archives

Looking for a past issue of *The Capitol Connection*? Find it online at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/aoc/capconn.htm.

NEW LAWS WORKSHOPS ANNOUNCED

The 2007 New Laws Workshops will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the following dates:

November 6, 2007

Tsakopoulos Library Galleria,
Sacramento

November 8, 2007

Administrative Office of the Courts
Southern Regional Office,
Burbank

November 14, 2007

Judicial Council Conference Center,
San Francisco

These day-long workshops, jointly sponsored by the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Coalition of Trial Court Clerk Associations, feature presentations and discussion of legislation enacted in 2007 that affects trial courts and court operations.

Space is limited at these popular workshops and reservations are required. Registration information will be announced in the near future.

For more information, contact Henry Sepulveda, Office of Governmental Affairs, Administrative Office of the Courts, at 916-323-3121 or henry.sepulveda@jud.ca.gov. ■



Participants enjoy a day of presentations, breakout sessions and group discussions at the 2006 New Laws Workshop in San Francisco. New Laws Workshops were also held in Burbank and Sacramento.



News from the AOC

In addition to *The Capitol Connection*, the Administrative Office of the Courts publishes several publications reporting on various aspects of court business. Visit these online on the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov

In an ongoing effort to provide information to the juvenile and family court community, The Center for Families, Children & the Courts publishes an annual academic journal that covers contemporary and important issues regarding children, families, and the interplay between these parties and the courts. See www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/resources/publications/

